1908.

THE

Annual Reports

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE

PAIGNTON URBAN DISTRICT.

PAIGNTON:

P. G. HORSHAM, PRINTER, 36, WINNER STREET.

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1908.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District of Paignton.

GENTLEMEN,

It is again my privilege to submit my Annual Report upon the health and sanitary condition of Paignton, and is the eighteenth of such reports.

The statistics I am able to lay before you will, I am sure, be a source of pleasure, as practical progress and improvement is shewn on every side. Still, I must again draw your attention to the need, which is urgent, of a Refuse Destructor; and that it is also necessary you should take into your early consideration the further provision for the treatment of Infectious Diseases. Your Isolation Hospital now has not sufficient accommodation for a town the size of Paignton with its 10,000 inhabitants.

The following statistics are based upon an estimated population at the middle of the year of 9,750, and I think I can safely estimate the present population at 10,000.

The births registered were 206; of these 102 were boys and 104 girls, giving a birth-rate of 21·1 per 1,000 per annum, and is the same as last year but above the average of the last ten years. The natural increase—excess of births over deaths —is 70.

Births.

There were 136 deaths registered; of these 71 were males and 65 were females, and is above the average of the last ten years, but as the average population of the last ten years was only 8,575 I consider the number of deaths is certainly low.

Deaths.

The death-rate for ten years averages 14 per 1,000 per annum, but the rate for 1908 is only 13·9 per 1,000 per annum, and a satisfactory record. I have great pleasure in being able to state there has not been any death during the year due to any of the notifiable diseases. Further, seventy of the deaths were of persons over 65 years of age, so that nearly 50 per cent. of the deaths were of people in advanced life.

The following table shews the deaths at the various ages:

Under 1 year	20
1 year and under 5	6
5 years and under 15	3
15 years and under 25	7
25 years and under 65	30
65 years and over	70
	136

The following is a summary of the causes of death during the year :—

TABLE IV.

PAIGNTON URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1908.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at Subjoined Ages.						
	All Ages	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards
Small-pox							
Measles	4	3		1			
Scarlet fever							
Whooping-cough	2	2					
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)							
Croup							
Fever { Typhus...							
Fever { Enteric...							
Fever { Other continued ...							
Epidemic influenza							
Cholera							
Plague							
Diarrhœa	1		1				
Enteritis	1	1					
Puerperal fever							
Erysipelas							
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	9				2	7	
Other tuberculous diseases ...	5	1	1	2	1		
Cancer, malignant disease ...	16					4	12
Bronchitis	21	4	2			3	12
Pneumonia	5	1				1	3
Pleurisy							
Other diseases of Respiratory organs							
Alcoholism ... } Cirrhosis of liver }	1					1	
Venereal diseases							
Premature birth	1	1					
Diseases and accidents of parturition							
Heart diseases	9					3	6
Accidents	3					1	2
Suicides							
All other causes	58	7	2		4	10	35
All Causes	136	20	6	3	7	30	70

TABLE I.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1908 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

PAIGNTON DISTRICT.

Year	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Deaths at all Ages Nett.	
				Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.						
		Number.	Rate*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1898	7700	161	20·9	19	118·0	95	12·3					
1899	7900	145	18·3	13	89·6	98	12·4					
1900	8150	166	20·3	21	126·0	114	17·1					
1901	8400	178	21·2	11	61·8	119	14·1					
1902	8500	169	19·8	14	82·8	122	14·3					
1903	8650	156	18·0	18	115·0	97	11·2					
1904	8800	176	20·0	21	119·0	140	15·9					
1905	9000	189	21·0	10	53.0	134	14·8					
1906	9150	176	19·2	22	125·0	120	13·1					
1907	9500	201	21·1	24	119·4	147	15·4					
Averages for years 1898-1907	8575	171·7	19·9	17·3	100·9	118·6	14.0					
1908	9750	206	21·1	20	97·0	136	13·9					

No General Hospital or Workhouse in the District so that the previous figures may be taken as nett.

*Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Note.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this Table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of acres covered by water) ... 5177·5

Total population at all ages 8,385
Number of inhabited houses 1,785
Average number of persons per house ... ... 4·7

} At Census of 1901.

Isolation Hospital is in the District.

TABLE V.

PAIGNTON URBAN DISTRICT.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1908.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 Wk.	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	5-6 Months	6-7 Months	7-8 Months	8-9 Months	9-10 Months	10-11 Months	11-12 Months	Total deaths under 1 year
All Causes—Certified ...	4	1			4	1	1	3		1				2	3	20
Common Infectious Diseases: Small-pox ...																
Common Infectious Diseases: Chicken-pox ...																
Common Infectious Diseases: Measles								1						1	1	3
Common Infectious Diseases: Scarlet fever ...																
Common Infectious Diseases: Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)																
Common Infectious Diseases: Whooping Cough								1						1		2
Diarrhœal Diseases: Diarrhœa, all forms																
Diarrhœal Diseases: Enteritis, Muco-enteritis. Gastro-enteritis ...						1										1
Diarrhœal Diseases: Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh																
Premature Birth...	1															1
Wasting Diseases: Congenital Defects	1				1			1								3
Wasting Diseases: Injury at Birth ...																
Wasting Diseases: Want of Breast Milk, Starvation	1															1
Wasting Diseases: Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus					1											1
Tuberculous Diseases: Tuberculous Meningitis																
Tuberculous Diseases: Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica																
Tuberculous Diseases: Other Tuberculous Diseases																
Other Causes: Erysipelas... ...																
Other Causes: Syphilis																
Other Causes: Rickets																
Other Causes: Meningitis *(not Tuberculous)*							1									1
Other Causes: Convulsions ...																
Other Causes: Bronchitis ...		1			1										2	4
Other Causes: Laryngitis ...																
Other Causes: Pneumonia ...																
Other Causes: Suffocation, overlying																
Other Causes: Other causes ...	1				1					1						3

District of Paignton.

Births in the year { legitimate 199. illegitimate 7.

Population estimated to middle of 1908, 9750.

Deaths in the year of legitimate infants 18; illegitimate infants, 2.

Deaths from ALL CAUSES AT ALL AGES 136.

Infant Mortality.

The infant mortality was 20, and measured by the proportion of deaths under one year of age to the number of births registered, is 97 per 1,000, and an improvement on last year, when the number was 119·4 per 1,000, and is below the average of the last ten years. Still, I consider even this number 97 is much larger than should obtain in a community such as Paignton consists of. There were 7 illegitimate births registered, and of these two died, giving a rate of 285·6 per 1,000.

The following table shews the local statistics, together with those of all England:—

VITAL STATISTICS OF ENGLAND AND WALES

FOR THE YEAR 1908.

	Annual rate per 1000 living.			
	Births.	Deaths from all causes.	Deaths from 7 chief Epidemic Diseases.	Infant mortality. Annual death rate of Infants under 1 year of age to 1000 Births.
England and Wales	26·5	14·7	1·29	121
76 Great Towns ...	27·0	14·9	1·59	128
142 Smaller Towns	26·0	14·0	1·26	124
England and Wales less the 218 Towns	26·2	14·0	0·99	110
Paignton ...	**21·1**	**13·9**	**0·6**	**97**

Notifications.

The notifications received were 39, of these 38 were of Scarlet fever and one of Enteric fever.

TABLE III.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING YEAR 1908.

PAIGNTON URBAN DISTRICT.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in whole District.							No. of Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.	
Small pox ...								
Cholera ...								
Diptheria (including Membranous croup)								
Erysipelas ...								
Scarlet Fever...	38		12	19	5	2		
Typhus Fever...								
Enteric Fever...	1					1		
Relapsing Fever								
Continued Fever								
Puerperal Fever								
Plague... ...								
Totals ...	39		12	19	5	3		20

The number of deaths due to zymotic disease were six, of these four were of Measles and two of Whooping cough, giving a zymotic death-rate of 0·6 per 1,000 per annum. No death occurred from any notifiable disease.

Phthisis.

There were nine deaths registered as due to Phthisis, giving a rate of 0·9 per 1,000 per annum. This is a good record and below the average of England and Wales, more especially as several of the deaths were of people coming to this town on account of their ill health. The necessity of disinfection of rooms after death is now well recognised by the Public, and is being asked for, and more care is exercised with regard to the disposal of sputum during the illness.

Scarlet Fever.

Notification was received of 38 cases of Scarlet fever, only 20 of which could be treated in the Isolation Hospital. In several places where children were treated at home there were three or four of the family attacked. Where early removal is effected we seldom get a second case.

Enteric Fever.

One case only was notified and was treated at home. On enquiry it was pretty clearly established that the disease was due to the eating of shell fish.

Drainage.

The town continues to grow, but there has not been any difficulty this year except at the outfall, where damage was done by storm, which has been attended to. It must not be, however, overlooked that very soon an extension will become necessary, as it is only by careful cleansing and dragging of the long, low gradient sewers that the sewage can get away to sea.

Water.

During the past year there has been a plentiful supply of water, but still there have been several complaints from the householders on the high levels as to both an inadequate and irregular supply, but when the redistribution scheme is finished these complaints should cease. Another cause of complaint is that although much has been spent on the Water Scheme that the houses on the low levels get so little soft water. Again I feel it desirable to ask if the time has not arrived when every house should have a supply direct from the main for drinking and cooking purposes.

Scavenge Disposal.

Much anxiety has been caused by the delay in the erection of the Dust Destructor, but it is with much relief I understand that at last a site has been found and that before many months this work will be completed.

Public Elementary Schools.

In accordance with the circular letter of the L.G.B. dated 2nd December, 1908, I have to report that the Public Elementary Schools in Paignton are in a thoroughly good sanitary condition. With regard to the medical inspection of the children so far nothing had been done at the end of the year; but the Devon County Council has appointed three School Medical Officers for the whole county, and in due time no doubt one of them will arrive in Paignton.

Vaccination.

The following is the report of Mr. Revel, the Vaccination Officer:—

Successfully vaccinated	67
Conscientious exemption certificates received	100
Died unvaccinated	10
Postponed by Medical certificate	4
Removed out of the district	4
Unvaccinated, under 6 months old ...	21
	206

The above report is one for very anxious thought, and more especially for a town such as Paignton, where there is such a large influx of visitors, with the risk of disease being imported. Practically 50 per cent. of the children born during the year are unprotected by vaccination, and this means that another Hospital will have to be provided.

Paignton has few factories or workshops where mechanical power is used, but there are 61 workshops registered under the Act. Factory and Workshops Act.

Numerous visits have been paid and examinations made but no serious defects have been found, and there has not been any need to take any legal proceeding. The one difficulty we find is that the persons employing out-workers do not send in the half-yearly lists, and after several notices the Council has decided to take proceedings against future defaulters. The inspections made were, to factories 5 and to workshops 100.

Numerous inspections have been made independently of the usual routine visits of the Sanitary Inspector. Good work has been commenced with regard to improvement of Cow Sheds and for the prevention of contamination of the milk supply. There is one weak point about this business, viz., that we have no control over supplies coming from outside. Mr. Crathorn will give a detail of the work done during the year. Slaughter houses, Milk shops, Dairies and Bakehouses.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. W. VICKERS, D.P.H., London,

Medical Officer of Health.

March, 1909.

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR,

For the Year ending the 31st day of December, 1908.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Paignton.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Again I have the pleasure of submitting to you my Annual Report for the year ending the 31st day of December, 1908, being my fourteenth.

Drains, &c.

The testing and supervision of drains and sanitary work have occupied a considerable part of my time. As you will see, a large number of houses have been tested. Visitors, of which we have a very large number in the summer time, also a number of persons of delicate health who come here to reside, are very anxious to know that the drainage and sanitary arrangements of premises are in good sanitary condition, and by this it causes a larger number of houses to be tested than otherwise would be the case. Again when any case of infectious disease occurs, and your Sanitary Officers have any doubt as to drainage, &c., the drains are examined and tested. A good number of drains have been repaired, relaid, and new systems carried out, a number of D and bell traps have been condemned and replaced by gullies; in all cases where masons' traps have been found they have been taken out and interceptors and inspection chambers fitted. In a large number of alterations and reconstruction of drainage work inspection chambers have been provided. In cases where alterations and reconstruction of drains have been carried out, where the soil pipes have been found in the walls, new pipes have been carried outside, and where pan containers and washout pans have existed they have been substituted by washdown pans. Again all new houses, when the drains are completed, are thoroughly tested, in many cases with both the water and smoke tests.

Scavenging.

The removal of house refuse is carried out by the Council's own staff. A few complaints have been received, but most of these have been by the men refusing to take large quantities of garden refuse. It should be distinctly understood by the public that it is not the duty of the Local Authority to remove the refuse from gardens, or other than house refuse. A difficulty still exists as to the means of the disposal of the refuse, but I am pleased to say that the end of the difficulty seems in sight, by the erection at an early date of the refuse destructor. A number of houses have been provided by the owners with galvanised iron ashbins in place of the ashpits.

Infectious Diseases.

Upon the notification of infectious disease being received, the majority of the cases have been removed and treated at the Isolation Hospital; in all cases the premises have been visited and disinfected, and where found necessary the rooms have been stripped and throughly cleaned. Disinfectants have been supplied to all the persons making application for the same, and in several cases it has been found necessary to have the drains and sanitary arrangements put in good repair, on account of their defective condition.

Water.

The Town Water has been laid on to eleven old, and sixty-two new premises this year. During part of the year on account of being able to use the new distribution main, there was a good and constant supply to nearly the whole of the houses supplied, and we may, upon the completion of these mains and the new reservoir, be enabled to supply all the houses that may be put upon the lower or middle zone of supply. A sample of well water has been taken and handed to the M.O.H. who found the same of good quality.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk shops.

The cowhouses, dairies and milkshops have been periodically visited during the year; very little complaint can be found with the milkshops and dairies, but some of the cowhouses are in a dilapidated condition, and not kept in such a condition as they may be, but hope during the coming year to have some of them put in considerably better sanitary condition.

Milk.

Six samples of milk were taken and forwarded to the County Analyst, who reported the same to be all genuine.

Slaughter houses.

Frequent visits have been made to all the private slaughter houses, and upon the whole were found in good condition.

Factory and Workshops Act.

Attached to the Medical Officer of Health's report is a report giving the particulars and details required by the Secretary of State in reference to this Act, by which will be seen that many visits have been made by myself and the M.O.H. to the Workshops, Laundries and Bakehouses in the district, several of which were given verbal notices to limewash the workshops, and the necessary work was carried out. Under

section 107 of the Act of 1901, employers giving out work in connection with certain specified trades, to persons at their own homes, are required to send in twice a year lists of the names and addresses of such "Out-workers." This provision enables the Authority to prohibit employers from giving out work to be done in unwholesome or infected houses, but up to the present we have had great difficulty in getting employers to comply with the same, notwithstanding several communications and personal requests have been made to them. Suggestions have been made from the Home Office that this section must be enforced.

New houses.

The drainage of all new houses and premises, after completion of the drainage, have been examined and tested by me and reported to the surveyor; inspection chambers have been provided in all cases. I have to report a decrease in the number of new houses erected during the year.

Notices.

These have been served where found necessary, or when instructed by the Council, for the abatement of nuisance, removal of animals, offensive accumulation, sanitary defects, cleansing of houses, or any other matters requiring the same, and in all cases have been complied with; in no case has it been necessary to apply for legal proceedings to carry out any of the necessary work.

I herewith append a tabulated list of some of the works carried out during the year:

Complaints received and attended to	8
Houses inspected	415
Preliminary notices	14
Legal notices	3
Drains found choked	8
Drains tested (not including new houses) ...	55
Drains defective...	37
Drains repaired	19
Drains relaid	7
Drains—new system	24
Inspection chambers to old property	38
Interceptors (new)	22
Gullies	39
Washdown pans...	37
Water waste preventers (new)	5
Water waste preventers repaired	19
Soil pipes carried outside wall	21
Soil pipes repaired	17
Rain and waste water pipes taken out of drain	3
Ashpits repaired...	6
Ashbins provided	23

Offensive accumulations removed	6
Animals removed	3
New W.C.'s built	9
Town water to old property	11
Infectious cases removed to Hospital	20
Infectious cases visited	38
Houses disinfected	34
Lots of clothing and bedding steam disinfected	6
Houses cleansed	8
Workshops, including laundries, visited ...	105
Bakehouses visited	33
Slaughter houses visited	20
Dairies, cowhouses and milkshops	68
Samples taken	6
Adulterated	—
Sample of well water	1
New house drains tested	62

In conclusion I am pleased to say that the Council have taken into consideration the necessity of the Public Sanitary Conveniences, and trust that at an early date we may see several put into thoroughly good sanitary condition.

I would also express my thanks to the Council and my fellow officers for the assistance they have given me during the year.

I remain, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. CRATHORN, A.R.S.I.

Town Hall, March, 1909. *Sanitary Inspector.*